

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

The previously submitted abstract has been amended as set forth below only to more clearly reflect the invention to which the amended claims are directed and to comply with the length requirement specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.72. A clean version of the amended abstract is being submitted herewith on a separate sheet.

**Amended Abstract**

An optical switch has at least first, second, and third optical fibers disposed generally parallel to each other and spaced at non-equal intervals in a direction generally perpendicular to an optical axis of each of the optical fibers. The optical fibers have tip portions disposed approximately along a straight line extending in a direction generally perpendicular to the optical axis of each of the optical fibers. A first non-movable guiding structure ~~is non-movably mounted in front of the tip portions of the optical fibers for guiding~~ guides a beam of light emitted from the first optical fiber to the second optical fiber along a first optical path disposed between the tip portion of the first optical fiber and the tip portion of the second optical fiber. A second movable guiding structure ~~is mounted for undergoing movement to a position in front of the tip portions of the~~

~~optical fibers for guiding~~ guides the beam emitted from the first optical fiber to the third optical fiber along a second optical path disposed between the tip portion of the first optical fiber and the tip portion of the third optical fiber so that a length of the second optical path is substantially equal to a length of the first optical path.